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US DELEGATION TO UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP

SUBJECT: TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, SEPTEMBER 13-OCTOBER 1

1. THESE INSTRUCTIONS AMEND AND ARE ADDITIONAL TO POSITIO PAPER D-772, ENTITLED THE INTERRELATIONSHIPS OF POPULATION MATTERS TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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- 2. ON AGENDA ITEM 3(A), THE DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, THE DELEGATION SHOULD:
- A. IF THE MATTER ARISES, STRONGLY SUPPORT THE MAINTENANCE OF PARAGRAPH (E) UNDER ARTICLE 10 AS IT NOW STANDS BECAUSE THE INTENT OF THE ARTICLE IS TO INCLUDE FAMILY PLANNING AS A PART OF EDUCATION, WITH WHICH WE CONCUR.
- B. MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO WORK WITH AND THROUGH OTHER APPROPRIATE DELEGATIONS IN SEEKING PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENTS CITED BELOW, WITH U.S. AS CO-SPONSOR. (LIKELY PROSPECTS WOULD BE: EGYPT, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, COSTA RICA THE PHILIPPINES, INDIA, INDONESIA, THAILAND, FINLAND, AND UNITED KINGDOM.)
- C. WORK FOR THE INSERTION OF AN OPERATIVE SUBPARAGRAPH TO ARTICLE 13(J), OR AT ANOTHER APPROPRIATE PLACE, TO WIT:

"THE STATES PARTIES WILL ALSO ADOPT ALL NECESSARY MEASURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICAL AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES, ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH MEN, WITHOUT WHICH WOMEN ARE DISADVANTAGED IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO BENEFIT FROM NEW OPPORTUNITIES.,

D. WORK FOR INCLUSION IN THE PREAMBLE OF A PARAGRAPH ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES WHICH WOULD: "REAFFIRM THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION AND THE PLAN OF ACTION OF WCIWY CONCERNING THE BASIC RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS AND COUPLES TO DECIDE FREELY AND RESPONSIBLY THE NUMBER AND SPACING OF THEIR CHILDREN AND TO HAVE THE INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND MEANS, RPT MEANS, TO DO SO." COMMENT: PARAGRAPH 14(F) OF THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION RELATES THIS BASIC PRINCIPLE TO THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COUPLES AND INDIVIDUALS TOWARDS THE NEEDS OF THEIR LIVING AND FUTURE CHILDREN AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY. PARAGRAPH 19 OF THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION OF WCIWY RELATES THE EXERCISE OF THIS RIGHT TO THE ATTAINMENT OF ANY REAL EQUALITY BETWEEN THE SEXES AND STATES THAT WITHOUT ITS ACHIEVEMENT WOMEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE DISADVANTAGED IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO BENEFIT FROM OTHER REFORMS.

3. THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT THAT THE UNITED STATES REAFFIRM ITS ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLES ALREADY CONTAINED IN UNITED NATIONS DOCUMENTS ADOPTED BY 135 NATIONS. IF EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THESE CHANGES THROUGH OTHER DELEGATIONS SHOULD FAIL, THE DELEGATION IS INSTRUCT

TO INTRODUCE THE PREAMBULAR AMENDMENT AND TO CALL FOR A VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT TO REAFFIRM U.S. POSITION ON THESE PRINCIPLES.

4. THE U.S. OBJECTIVE IS TO SECURE AN EXPLICIT RECOGNITI OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVISION OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES, RPT SERVICES, FOR THE REMOVAL OF SEX DISCRIMINA TION, AND FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN. IF AMENDMENT EFFORTS FAIL AND THE DELEGATION IS FORCED TO ABSTAIN FROM THE FINAL DOCUMENT FOR ANY OTHER REASON, RPT FOR ANY OTHER REASON, THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EXPLANATION OF VOTE:

WE ALSO REGRET THAT THE PRESENT TEXT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR NON-DISCRIMINATORY HEALTH CARE AND THE PROVISION OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. A WOMAN'S HEALTH, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, EMPLOYMENT, AND HER PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE ARE IN NO SMALL MEASURE AFFECTED BY HER ABILITY TO PLAN HER FAMILY. THE DOCUMENT THUS AVOIDS A CRITICAL ELEMENT IN THE ELIMINATION OF SEX DISCRIMINATION AND IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN."

5. THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT, ESPECIALLY IF NEW INSTRUCTIONS ARE REQUIRED ROBINSON

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